

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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WSP intercepts 48 cases of illegal fireworks

On June 14, 2005 troopers responded to a private citizen report of a vehicle south bound on I-5 near Castle Rock with a large number of cartons with explosives stickers visible. The vehicle was stopped at 7:30 p.m. near Castle Rock.

On questioning the driver advised he was transporting the 48 cases of fire crackers, sky rockets, and other State illegal fireworks, with an estimated street value of \$12,000, to a location in Oregon. The driver did not have the necessary licenses and placards to transport fireworks on State highways.

A 5 year old child was found seated unrestrained on a carton of fireworks between the male passenger and the driver. In addition, a woman and baby were found in the back when the officer opened the side doors of the van and removed 4 cartons of fireworks that had been surrounding them.

The van and fireworks were ordered impounded (the van was later released to the driver). Charges of child endangerment and illegal possession of fireworks are pending against the driver.

“Thanks to the involvement of a private citizen, a tragedy waiting to happen was averted,” said State Fire Marshal Samuel Pierre. “We are asking citizens to celebrate safely, and make sure to be prepared, be safe, be responsible, and make sure the fireworks you are using are legal in the state of Washington.”

A “Celebrate Legally” campaign has been developed and implemented by the Washington State Patrol. **Possession of State illegal fireworks such as firecrackers, bottle rockets, or sky rockets being transported in vehicles will lead to not only loss of the fireworks, but a citation being issued to the driver as well.**

Transportation or possession of any amount of firecrackers, skyrockets, or bottle rockets off a Federal Reservation without a State issued Fireworks Wholesalers, or Pyrotechnicians license is illegal, and the fireworks will be subject to seizure, and a citation issued to the person in possession of the illegal fireworks.

The driver of a vehicle transporting more than 1000 lbs of any kind of fireworks, without a commercial driver’s license with Hazardous Materials endorsement, is in violation of both State and Federal law.

Information on both the “Celebrate Safely” and “Celebrate Legally” campaigns is available at www.wa.gov/wsp/fire/firemars/.htm. The information includes colored pictures of illegal explosive devices, State illegal fireworks and State legal fireworks and a fireworks facts sheet outlining dates and times in which fireworks are legal to possess and discharge.

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